

Focus Area 15: Injury and Violence Prevention

Objective 15-9 targets an overall reduction in the suffocation death rate to 3.3 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for suffocation increased from 3.3 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 3.6 in 2004 (Figure 15-9, Table 15-9). California's suffocation death rates are not significantly higher than the HP2010 objective of 3.3 per 100,000 population, but the objective has not yet been achieved and rates are moving away from the target.

Age-adjusted suffocation death rates for males (5.4 per 100,000 in 2004) were significantly higher than those for females (1.9 per 100,000 in 2004). This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

Data by race and ethnicity show that Whites experienced the highest age-adjusted suffocation death rates (4.3 per 100,000 in 2004), followed by African Americans/Blacks (3.6 per 100,000 in 2004), and by Asians (3.6 per 100,000 in 2004). The objective is not being achieved for any of these racial groups as of 2004. The HP2010 objective is, however, being achieved for Hispanics/Latinos (2.5 per 100,000 in 2004). Suffocation death rates for the American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and the Multirace populations are unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here.

For more information on suffocation in California, visit the Chronic Disease and Injury Control (CDIC) Web site at:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 15-9, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od15.htm>

Figure 15-9
Suffocation Death Rates
California, 2000-2004

Healthy People 2010 Objective = 3.3

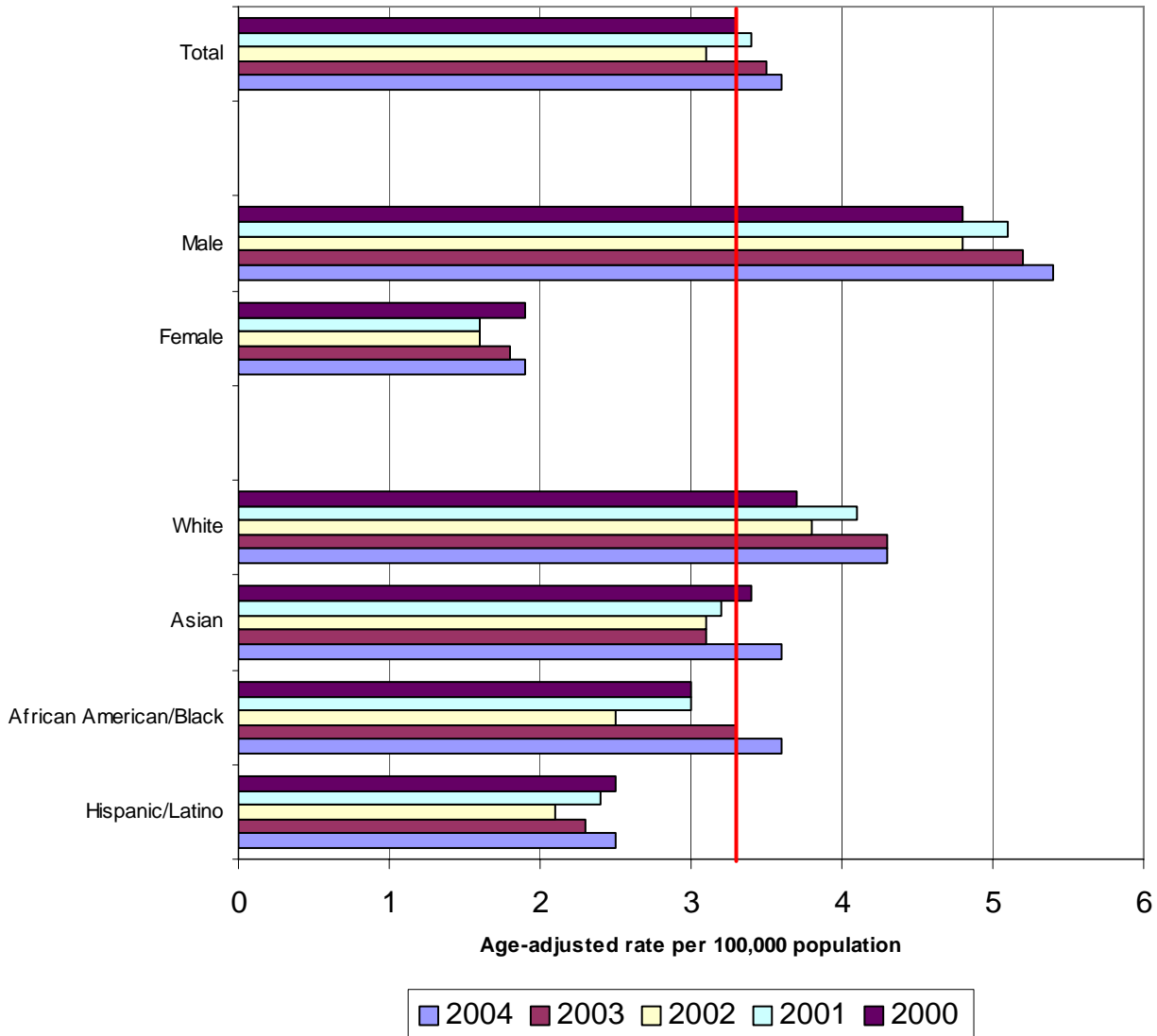


Table 15-9: Suffocation Deaths and Death Rates, California 2000-2004

Objective 15-9	2000		Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2001		Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
	N	Rate ¹			N	Rate ¹		
Healthy People 2010 Target		3.3				3.3		
Statewide Total	1,088	3.3	3.1	3.5	1,146	3.4	3.2	3.6
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	65	3.0	2.3	3.8	65	3.0	2.2	3.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	DSU	-----	-----	6	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	116	3.4	2.8	4.0	118	3.2	2.6	3.8
Hispanic/Latino	244	2.5	2.1	2.9	255	2.4	2.1	2.8
Pacific Islander	2	DSU	-----	-----	5	DSU	-----	-----
White	642	3.7	3.4	4.0	691	4.1	3.8	4.4
Multirace	11	DSU	-----	-----	5	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	318	1.9	1.6	2.1	290	1.6	1.4	1.8
Male	770	4.8	4.5	5.2	856	5.1	4.8	5.5

Objective 15-9	2002		Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2003		Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
	N	Rate ¹			N	Rate ¹		
Healthy People 2010 Target		3.3				3.3		
Statewide Total	1,094	3.1	3.0	3.3	1,233	3.5	3.3	3.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	57	2.5	1.9	3.2	76	3.3	2.6	4.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	DSU	-----	-----	10	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	119	3.1	2.5	3.6	118	3.1	2.5	3.6
Hispanic/Latino	235	2.1	1.8	2.4	265	2.3	2.0	2.6
Pacific Islander	5	DSU	-----	-----	11	DSU	-----	-----
White	657	3.8	3.5	4.1	740	4.3	4.0	4.7
Multirace	10	DSU	-----	-----	10	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	284	1.6	1.4	1.8	325	1.8	1.6	2.0
Male	810	4.8	4.4	5.1	908	5.2	4.9	5.6

Objective 15-9	2004		Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	5-year Trend	HP2010 Objective Being Achieved?
	N	Rate ¹				
Healthy People 2010 Target		3.3				
Statewide Total	1,316	3.6	3.4	3.8	ns	No
Race-Ethnicity						
African American/Black	84	3.6	2.8	4.4	ns	No
American Indian/Alaska Native	8	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
Asian	146	3.6	3.0	4.1	ns	No
Hispanic/Latino	314	2.5	2.2	2.8	ns	Yes
Pacific Islander	3	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
White	745	4.3	4.0	4.6	ns	No
Multirace	16	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
Gender						
Female	359	1.9	1.7	2.1	ns	Yes
Male	957	5.4	5.0	5.7	ns	No

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2004; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, May 2004.

NOTES: Suffocation deaths defined by ICD-10 codes X70, X91, W75-W84, Y20.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard.

Sig. - Statistically significant decrease in age-adjusted death rates from 2000 to 2004.

Sig. + Statistically significant increase in age-adjusted death rates from 2000 to 2004.

ns No significant trend as measured by linear regression analysis; n/a Not applicable (fewer than five data points)

DSU Data statistically unreliable (Relative Standard Error greater than 23 percent).